

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 21 October 2019.

Every attempt has been made to make these as comprehensive and conclusive as possible. However, as it is a draft document, it is not to be construed as a formal depiction of the official conduct of business and is subject to revision up to and following the Council's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **October 21, 2019** at 7:32 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Lawrence La Ronde
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller (absent – excused)
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry (7:36 p.m.)
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David Hollod, Business Administrator
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer
John Kaplan, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. DeBlasio.

Council President Stabile requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

“This is an Agenda Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 19, 2018. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.* by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Alternative Press* and *WKMB* Radio on November 20, 2018 by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of November 24, 2018 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose.”

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Giordano announced that trick-or-treating would take place on Thursday, October 31 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daniel Syczylo, 69 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his concerns with the volume of on-street parking in his neighborhood due to the soccer leagues in Green Brook Park. Trash items including broken bottles, food, dirty diapers, and plastics that are dumped along our properties, he exclaimed. In the event of an emergency, it would be nearly impossible for an ambulance or fire truck to maneuver through the area which is extremely dangerous. Council President Stabile responded that they had been made aware of the situation. Mayor Giordano added that they would ask the Borough's Recreation Director to contact Plainfield's Recreation Director regarding the matter.

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, commented on the "Meet Molly Pitcher" educational presentation during the Weekend Journey through the Past at the Vermeule Mansion. Commenting on the glaring traffic violations in and around West End Avenue while the soccer leagues are in session, the speaker suggested violators may not return if they are issued summonses.

Dominique Pasquarello, 81 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, shared her concerns with amount of vehicles illegally parked on the bridge at West End Avenue due to the soccer leagues in Green Brook Park. Walking with her young son on weekends has become impossible due to the amount of traffic as well as the volume of litter strewn about on sidewalks. Mayor Giordano suggested they consider addressing their concerns with the Union County Parks Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of Annual Audit** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod introduced Borough Chief Financial Officer Patrick DeBlasio who discussed the annual audit results which continue to confirm sound financial management. The Borough had been assessed one recommendation for a purchase made without first being entered into the encumbrance system. Council President Stabile indicated his enthusiasm for the continued positive audit results.
2. **Discussion of Best Practices Survey and Employee Handbook Updates** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod reported that the Borough had scored forty-four out of a possible forty-six survey points which confirmed our ability to consistently follow protocol. Referencing the employee handbook updates, Mr. Hollod explained that the resolution recognizes review of the handbook.
3. **Historic District Ordinance** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod introduced Katherine Miller, Historic Preservation Commission Chair who explained the need to update the current

ordinance. The new ordinance meets State regulations and allows for increased violation penalties. Applications for routine repairs will not require a public hearing which will expedite the process. Residents within the Historic District will still be required to preserve the unique architectural features of their homes, she assured.

4. **Closeout Resolution to S. Brothers, Inc. for Sandford Avenue Road Improvements** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution approves the final payment to S. Brothers, Inc. for the Sandford Avenue Improvements project.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS: None.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. La Ronde, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President